

What's wrong with draining my spa, pool, or filter backwash to the street or storm drain?

Street drains and storm drains lead to rivers, lakes, stream, and creeks. Chlorine, bromine, algaecides, biocides, water conditioners, stabilizers, and other chemicals in pool water are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Diatomaceous earth (DE), cellulose fiber, and sand particles from backwash water can fill in the spaces in the stream bed gravel, preventing oxygen from reaching fish eggs and young fish. DE and cellulose fiber can also clog fish gills.

Report Illegal Discharges to the Storm Sewer System

The City of Arlington
Action Center
817-459-6777

KNOW THE LAW:

It is a violation of the City of Arlington's Code of Ordinances to drain chlorinated water or filter backwash from your swimming pools or spas to the storm sewer system.

*Remember, you are responsible for the actions of your pool maintenance service. Be sure you know how your service is disposing of your pool or spa water and the filter backwash. They **must** follow all discharge requirements set forth by the City.*

This brochure is one of a series of brochures designed to inform you about stormwater pollution prevention.

Other topics include: Automotive

maintenance at home
Automotive maintenance for businesses

Car Washing
General Pollution Prevention
Lawn Care
Pest Control
Pet Waste

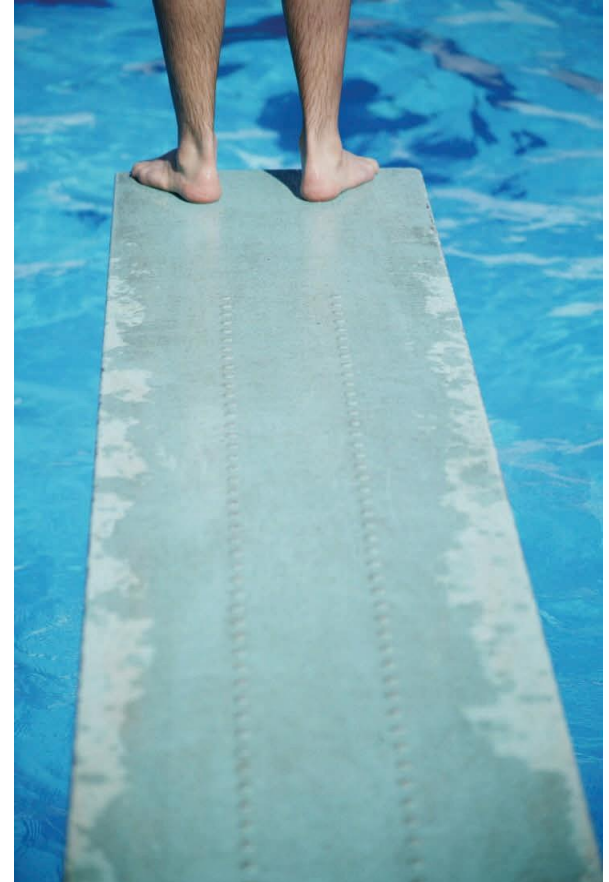


For more information on pools and spas and stormwater pollution prevention contact:

The City of Arlington
Public Works and Transportation
101 W. Abram Street
P.O. Box 90231 MS 01-0220
Arlington, TX 76004-3231
817-459-6572

<http://www.arlingtontx.gov>
Email: stormwatereducation@arlingtontx.gov

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION: SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS



GUIDELINES FOR PROPER SWIMMING POOL OR SPA DRAINAGE

It's all very simple!

There are three options for draining your swimming pool. Please note that whichever method you choose, you must **dechlorinate** the water before draining occurs.

Here's how:

- Dechlorinate naturally: Allow the water to sit in the sun for 5-10 days without adding any chlorine; or
- Use a chemical dechlorination additive (contact your local pool store for options).
- Verify water is dechlorinated with a pool testing kit.

Option 1: Your Lawn *The Preferred Discharge Method*

Drain **dechlorinated** water to the grass/turf/or any area on your property that will allow the water to percolate into the ground, **if and only if...**

- You do not cause flooding of your neighbor's property or any other adjacent property.
- The land area is sufficient to prevent erosion and runoff into a ditch, creek, or other stormwater conveyance (i.e. storm drain).
- You do not cause harm to the environment.

This water can be used to irrigate plants, saturate dry ground, or soak into mulched areas.



Option 2: The Sanitary Sewer

Drain your pool to the sanitary sewer. Most in-ground pools have a drain line connected to the sanitary sewer which can be used once the pool water has been **dechlorinated**.

Follow these steps:

- Locate the sanitary sewer cleanout on your property or an indoor drain such as a sink or bathtub.
- Using a hose, connect a siphon or sump pump that pumps no more than 50 gallons per minute.
- Pump the water from the pool or spa to the cleanout or indoor drain.
- Replace all cleanout covers when finished.

DO NOT drain swimming pool or spa water to your SEPTIC SYSTEM as it may cause system failure.

It is not advisable to connect a hose to your indoor toilet to drain your swimming pool or spa. In most cases, water being pumped from your pool will drain faster than the time needed for flushing and refilling of the commode.

If you are unsure whether or not the discharge from your pool will create a problem in the sanitary sewer system or wastewater treatment plant, contact the City of Arlington Water Utilities Department at 817.459.6600.



Option 3: The Storm Drain

Swimming pool water may be discharged to the storm drain **only** after **all** of the following conditions are met:

- Other disposal methods (i.e. sanitary sewer or landscaping) are not possible.
- The pool or spa is completely **dechlorinated**.
- The pH of the water is between 6 and 9.
- There is no discharge of filter media.
- There is no discharge of acid cleaning wastes.
- Discharge water will not pond or flow to neighboring properties.
- Drainage hoses must stay on your property and drain directly to the street



Filter Backwash

NEVER discharge filter backwash to the storm sewer system. It is a violation of the City of Arlington Code of Ordinances. This practice is illegal and you can be fined.

Disposing of filter rinsewater and backwash:

- Filter backwash must be collected, contained, and discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- Cartridge filters should be rinsed in a sink, bathtub, or over a lawn or other vegetated area.
- Use a separation tank for diatomaceous earth (DE) and cellulose fiber filters to capture the DE or fibers.
- For water conservation, direct the clean water back into the pool.